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Day for fools

Keep your head up today.
Page 5

Taxes going up

Average Port resident to pay \$50 more.
Page 11.

He's a writer

Meet the man behind the letters.
Page 9.

Anglers lured

Big money prizes at 20th annual walleye tournament. Page 23.

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INPORT NEWS

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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ CANAL OPEN

Ship-shape year forecast

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE— Though the voyage began with ancient mariners, it was the seafarers of today and tomorrow that were the focus of a special celebration last week.

See **CANAL** | page 3

■ SOLD-OUT: Third annual event for Port Cares



VICTORIA GRAY Photo
Bernace Davies, 93, of Port Colborne was invited to Soup Fest by Port Cares executive director Lynda Reinhart.

Soup-er supportive

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A taste of soup can give the less fortunate a better place to get the help they need.

Port Cares held its third annual Soup Fest at St. Patrick's Parish in Port Colborne last Friday.

Student chefs from Lakeshore Catholic High School, Port Colborne High School and Niagara College prepared six different soups for two sold-out seatings.

Lynda Reinhart, executive director of Port Cares, was extremely happy with the turn out and quality of the student's creations.

"The support has been very good," she said. "This is a very supportive community to us,

and our work. We couldn't do it without them."

More than 200 people came out to back the event's initiative, Reaching Out and Changing Lives. Proceeds from the campaign will help the Port Care's Reach Out Centre expansion that will include an industrial kitchen, office space and a larger Linda Ursacki and her husband Allan attended Friday's first soup tasting and enjoyed Lakeshore Catholic High School's winter butternut squash soup — and supporting their local charity.

"It's a good cause," Linda said. "It builds community spirit and it's a good idea to give (the students) some skills for the workplace."

See **SOUP** | page 2

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■ SOUP

Reach Out Centre project to cost \$1M

FROM PAGE 1

Dezrael McGee, 16, a student in Lakeshore Catholic High School's hospitality and tourism program, helped to prepare soup and serve patrons.

She was grateful for the chance to flex her skills and help out.

"It's great to get to know the community and we get to help out and give back," she said. "The community helps us so much."

Port Cares' Reach Out Centre project will cost more than \$1 million, but the federal and provincial governments will pay a third each.

The rest needs to come from donors and fundraisers. So far Port Cares has raised \$335,000.

The Niagara vs College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute also served up soup for the reach out centre.

Chelsea Soper, 21, has volunteered before and thinks it's not only fun, but beneficial for everyone.

"It's nice to meet other chefs, it looks good on a resume and the school



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photos
LEFT PHOTO: Dezrael McGee, left, and Jacob Attrill, students in Lakeshore Catholic High School's hospitality and tourism program serve winter butternut squash soup and pasta fagioli soup at the third annual Port Cares Soup Fest on Friday at St. Patrick's Parish.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Chelsea Soper, a student of Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute, and chef professor David Gibson demonstrate their skills at the third annual Port Cares Soup Fest on Friday at St. Patrick's Parish.

community helps out a lot," she said.

Joel Calliford, a chef at Port Colborne High School, gushed about his students, the effort they put into the fundraiser and his city.

"The school is part of the community and it's great to cultivate that relationship because when we need help the community might be there for us," he said.

"If you don't you can become an island and nobody does anything."

Ilyssa Boisvenue, 16, a student in Port High's culinary arts program spent two days staying late after school to make bread for the event and couldn't pass up the opportunity to volunteer.

"Everybody helps each other in this community," she said. "So when somebody needs help, we help."

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- Diane, John & Zachary
2010 John-Michael Martin Memorial Golf Tournament.

portraits

■ CANAL

Top Hat ceremony was standing room only

FROM PAGE 1

It was standing room only in Port Colborne High School's auditorium, where students and members of the community gathered for the city's annual Top Hat Ceremony.

A longtime tradition in the lakeside city, the ceremony not only offers best wishes to sailors, but also celebrates the marine industry and its impact on the community. Mayor Vance Badawey told the crowd. Tuesday marked the 53rd navigation season of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the return of traffic on the Welland Canal.

"Today's event will recognize and show our appreciation of the contribution the marine industry makes to our overall economy," Badawey said during the ceremony. It's also a chance, he added, to address "the contribution our community can make to the overall sustainability of the industry."

The opening of the shipping season marks "the moving of an economy in a direction that favours our strengths in terms of our location as a gateway for trade," he said.

This is the second consecutive year the celebration has been held at a local high school, allowing the city to introduce a new generation of could-be mariners to the industry and careers it offers, Badawey said, such as deck-hand, galley cook, engineer or even captain.

Many careers in the marine industry are in high demand,

said Kailey Thompson, marketing and recruiting specialist for Georgian College.

Thompson shared information with the crowd about the school's marine engineering and marine navigation programs — both offered at the Owen Sound campus in the Great Lakes International Marine Training Centre. For more information on the programs, visit www.marinetraining.ca.

St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. is projecting a 7% increase in cargo tonnage for the 2011 season, said Luc Boisclair, the company's general manager of engineering for Niagara. The increase would mean 39.1 million tonnes of cargo would be shipped on the seaway this year.

Traditional staple cargoes of grain and ore are expected to remain strong this season, he said, and road salt shipments are expected to increase to replenish depleted inventories from this year's challenging winter conditions. After completing the official ceremony at the Elgin St. high school, Badawey headed down to Lock 8 Park to await the arrival of the first downbound vessel. For the third consecutive year, it was the *Algoeast* that claimed the title, with Capt. Colin Mark awarded the coveted top hat.

The *Algoeast* was making its way down the canal to Montreal carrying fuel for other ships — fitting cargo to kick off the shipping season.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

■ ANOTHER CANAL SHIPPING SEASON



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

ABOVE: The *Algoeast* at Lock 8.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Capt. Colin Mark of the *Algoeast* was presented with the coveted top hat presented to him by Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey during the opening of the Welland Canal shipping season.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Capt. Colin Mark of the *Algoeast* was presented with the top hat during the opening of the Welland Canal shipping season.

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■ ourview

End of an era

"We played a lot of hockey here," Tom Lannan said last Friday night as he looked around the Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena. "We coached a lot of teams."

The arena on Elizabeth St. first opened its doors in December 1974, a year before Lannan joined the municipality as program supervisor.

On Nov. 23, 1976, the building was dedicated and named after Ted (Teddy) Kennedy, an NHL Hall of Famer who played for the Toronto Maple Leafs throughout his career from 1942 to 1957, and grew up in Hambrstone, not far from the arena that bears his name.

Kennedy, Lannan's cousin, was at the arena for the official opening in 1976 along with Bronco Horvath, a former NHL and AHL star also from Port Colborne.

Lannan, who retired in 2008 as Port Colborne's recreation director, returned last week to drop the puck to start the final game ever played in that arena, an atom house league semifinal playoff game.

While the arena will be closed for the next hockey season begins, teams that played there will have to play at Port Erie, Watford, and even Dunnville have offered ice time for the Port teams.

Replacing the arena will be a new twin-pad inside a new health and wellness centre to be built.

Like Lannan, we hope Kennedy's name will somehow be associated with the new complex. We also hope the area continues to be called the Thomas A. Lannan Sports Complex. Though Kennedy passed away in 2009, it would be fitting for the two relatives to remain connected.

Mayor's even a spot in the new centre that could be named after Horvath and other hockey greats from the city.

Congratulations

While we're on the topic of hockey, we'd like to congratulate the Port Colborne Scotiabank Sailors for their recent win against Stratford to help the team clinch its first Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship since 1955.

About 300 residents, many of which were family members of the players, made the 2-1/2 hour trip to Stratford to cheer on the Sailors.

Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association president Bill Steele said everyone could tell, as the game started, that the Sailors wanted the game and the championship.

Head coach Tim Fretz said news of the championship travelled fast, with signs of congratulations greeting the team bus on its way east along Hwy. 3 appearing as early as Watford.

"They received quite a welcome when they came home, and they deserved it," Fretz said in praising the play of his 13- and 14-year-old players.

■ COLUMN

REV. GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Here we are again. Another year and another April Fool's day. All the jokes have to be completed by noon or they are invalid. Who makes up these rules anyway?

Where did this day come from? More important, what is a fool?

I quickly searched the online Princeton definition. "A fool is a person who lacks good judgment or a person who is glibly and easy to take advantage of."

From what I read, whichever of the two you choose, it means the same. A fool is someone who is lacking wisdom or is easily led because he lacks the wisdom to know he is being led in a wrong direction.

Years ago, Jim Elliot gave his life to serve a tribal group in the jungles of Ecuador. Jim and 4 others were all murdered in the jungle near a village of the violent, and dangerous Waodani tribe. The very people, that the 5 missionaries loved and were attempting to tell of the love of Jesus, were their executioners. Spears puncturing their bodies like pin cushions.

At first, the loss of the five men was declared a waste or a foolish sacrifice. But, the opposite was true. To God, this act of sacrifice was wisdom.

Most don't get it. It remains foolish to

them.

But, such it is with God.

Christopher Hitchens, the self-confessed atheist, would strip up one side of this idea and draw the other for even intimating that God, if he exists, works the way he does. He would conclude that God is foolish, absurd, barbaric and certainly not great!

Even to me, there are times when, what God does, appears senseless, foolish and wasteful.

But, the motto of Jim Elliot's life, penned years before his death, speaks to the contrary.

He wrote the following, in his journal, on October 28, 1949. "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

In this statement, Jim seems to answer prophetically the question, "Is the sacrifice of my life a waste?" "Am I a fool if I give up my life in order to give the message of Christ's love to those who have never heard of Him?"

Elliot believed that his physical life was expendable in the cause of allowing others to hear the Good News of Jesus' love and death on the cross for them. He believed that the sacrifice of his physical life was nothing compared to gaining life eternal with God for himself and others. The outcome is found in history. The first to become Christ-followers in that very tribe, were the men who earlier spared Jim and his four friends to death.

■ readers' views

A YOUNG WIND TURBINE SUPPORTER

I am only 14 years old and my brother is 10 but we are aware of what is going on in Niagara about the solar panels and the windmills. I know the two nearest nuclear plants are in Pennsylvania and Pickering, east of Toronto.

My generation are the ones who are going to inherit the results of your decisions today.

After hearing about the nuclear plants in Japan I am aware that we have (minor) earthquakes here on a regular basis. I have seen Nanticoke and it is a huge ugly mass of concrete and bricks with these big huge chimneys spewing out filthy black smog — this is part of what's causing lung cancer.

I think windmills and solar panels are the way to go. I love looking at them when I pass by them. They are beautiful and do not cause pollution.

Chelsey Davis
Watford

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

Ongoing discussion and debate regarding the impact of industrial wind turbines within the Region of Niagara continues, with proponents and opponents apparently unable to reach any consensus completely acceptable to everyone.

There are several solutions that should be acceptable.

This is particularly true with Niagara's recent comments from a large majority of municipal leaders who are urging all Niagara residents to welcome the idea of Niagara with each aspect mutually contributing to what is seen in the best interests of all regional residents and in the way each municipality can best contribute.

Presently Niagara's plan has embraced the "green" alternate energies of industrial wind and solar power.

Two rural and agricultural municipal councils, Watford and West Lincoln, have recently voted unanimously to request that the province impose a moratorium on any future industrial wind turbine construction.

In 1 Corinthians 1 verse 18 and 19, the Apostle Paul writes, "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.'"

To another group in the Empire capital of Rome, the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 1 verse 16 and 17, "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'"

A life lost in the manner of Jim Elliot's screams foolish to many. A message of the crucified God, in our modern world of technology and independence, is close to craziness!

But to God, who has the final word and through whom we live and move and have our very existence, it is called wisdom.

People who come to the realization that we have been foolish in believing the gift of God's Son, Jesus, and instead, choose to trust in Jesus Christ, gain the salvation of God. They are not fools in God's sight, but are declared wise.

I would rather be a fool God's way.

How about you?

In Watford there are a few residents who do support industrial wind turbines, however, at each public meeting they have proved to be very much in the minority.

It is well publicized that both Welland and Port Colborne are totally in support of both industrial wind and solar projects.

In the interests of the region and good neighbourliness, wouldn't it make sense for such municipalities to gain all the benefits from such industries, respect and support both Welland and West Lincoln's democratic rights and make a decision at regional level that all industrial wind and solar projects should be built in those communities who actually support them?

It makes sense, would not conflict with the Green Energy Act, and would show Niagara's support for all its municipalities and all its residents.

Andrew Watts
Watford

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■ PRANK: Keep your head up

April 1 – a perfect day for fools

In 1992, National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation program announced that Richard Nixon, in a surprise move, was running for president again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." Accompanying this announcement were audio clips of Nixon delivering his candidacy speech. Listeners responded loud and clear to the announcement, flooding the show with calls expressing shock and outrage. Only during the second half of the show did the host John Hockenberry reveal that the announcement was a practical joke. A comedian



George Duma
BY GEORGE

many Baby Boomers will remember, Rich Little, impersonated Nixon's voice. It was April 1.

In 1997, The Independent newspaper in the U.K. reported on its front page that Labour Party member Tony Blair, who was campaigning to become prime minister, had offered former Conservative prime minister Margaret Thatcher a position as ambassador to Washington if she would endorse his candidacy in

the election and Labour were to win. It also said that Thatcher had expressed her admiration for Blair's "disciplined determination." The story was picked up by wire services and consequently reported as fact by the Australian Broadcasting Company, forcing it to subsequently issue a retraction. In reality, Thatcher had described Blair as a "boneless wonder." It was April 1.

Both of these accounts can be found on the Museum of Hoaxes website. Back in 1984, a young managing editor at the Lindsay Daily Post in Central Ontario, near Peterborough, wrote a fictitious account chronicling a proposed

downtown revitalization project. The Town of Lindsay had applied on a few occasions to the provincial government's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for funding but always had the application handed back due to incorrect procedure and/or insufficient data. The story outlined how Progressive Conservative Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Claude Bennett finally got tired of town officials botching their applications and, in

frustration, was reported to have said, "Here, just take the damn money and get on with your revitalization project. Geez." The story had fictitious quotes from town councilors and a doctored front-page photo showing a bulldozer digging up Kent Street, Lindsay's main drag. It also had a disclaimer at the end of it. It was April 1.

The initial outrage the story created in the town's downtown core when it hit the streets that day cost the editor his job. He was fired

almost as soon as he got to the office that morning. People had been fooled. People don't like to be fooled.

Suddenly, I was unemployed over an April Fool's story, one that had been approved by the newspaper's upper management the day before it ran.

And suddenly, I thought I had been tossed out of the newspaper business forever. Such would not be the case.

See DUMA | page 6

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DUMA

'The land deal? Forget it. It's not true.'

FROM PAGE 5

Immediately after being dismissed, I walked the two blocks to see a good friend of mine who happened to be a lawyer. His secretary let him know I was there and he came out to greet me and lead me into his office.

A big bear of a man with a really kind heart, Brian's eyes got wider and wider as I told him what happened.

"Hang on a minute," he

said. He picked up the phone and soon had a client on the line.

"You know what we talked about this morning, the land deal? Forget it. It's an April Fool's story. It's not true."

Oh, great, I thought. I'm responsible for people getting involved in land deals they shouldn't be getting involved in.

Brian laughed after he hung up the phone, shaking his head.

"They fired you for THAT?" he asked. "It was a great story. You nailed the councillors perfectly. That's exactly how each of them would have reacted."

To make a long story short, Brian launched a wrongful dismissal suit against The Lindsay Post.

The Post was an independent newspaper back then, operated by a trust that had been appointed by the paper's owner, 80-plus-year-

old Roy Wilson, before he died. The three selected to run the newspaper knew very little about either journalism or newspapering.

I received an outpouring of support from the newspaper industry, from smaller papers like the North Bay Nugget and the Guelph Mercury to larger ones like the Toronto Sun, to Peter Gzowski from CBC Radio's Morningside. In fact, I did a five-minute spot with Gzowski.

All the calls of support were consistent — Journalists were outraged that one of their own would be fired for an April Fool's joke. Heck, the Mississauga News had reported the previous year that Mayor Hazel McCallion was building a heliport atop Mississauga City Hall to house her new helicopter. Mayor Hazel thought it was hilarious. Mayor Hazel had a sense of humour.

While the Lindsay Post's



management held tough for a few months after firing me, public sympathy actually swung my way. The management eventually capitulated and we settled for a handsome sum —

handsome back in 1984 at least — just before the case was to go to court. Fairness prevailed.

Shortly after the settlement, a job came up at The Tribune's Port Colborne bureau and I have never left town.

It didn't take long to consider the little city on the lake home.

The origins of April Fool's Day vary around the world, depending on the country. But one thing is constant.

April 1 is the day when all bets are off and practical jokes rule.

So as you read this, beware.

And be skeptical. Today, above all other days, Happy April 1.

BERTIE AND CLINTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY DECLARES A 15% REFUND ON 2010 PREMIUMS PAID



President Brian Heaslip (left) receives refund cheque from Vice-President Phillip Lambert (right) at Bertie and Clinton's head office.

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The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At the annual meeting held March 22, 2011 David Gill of Welland, Phillip Lambert of Niagara-on-the-Lake and David Wiley of St. Catharines were elected for three year terms. Brian Heaslip of Wellandport will serve the company as President for 2011-2012 and Phillip Lambert was elected as Vice-President. Keith Hallborg of Welland is the Secretary-Treasurer.

Bertie and Clinton Mutual has agents and brokers throughout the Niagara Peninsula. If you own a farm in the Niagara Peninsula or for any other general insurance needs please contact us at 1789 Merrittville Hwy., R.R.#2 Welland. 905-892-0606 or 1-800-263-0494. Fax 905-892-0565

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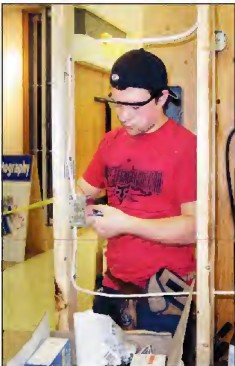
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George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cogeco.ca

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■ SKILLS ON DISPLAY



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

The electrical skills of Lakeshore Catholic High School's Ryan Lecompte, 17, are tested during the Niagara Catholic Skills Competition at Seaway Mall in Welland last week.

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■ COLUMN

First kick at a budget

I have decided to focus this month's column on something that we all deal with on a yearly, monthly, even daily basis and something that our council spent a lot of time discussing and debating during their first kick at the can – the budget.

We had some negatives and positives to work with when we started this process. Some of the challenges that the township is facing for 2011 include low assessment growth, wage and insurance increases, aging infrastructure, low reserve levels and increasing tax arrears. On the plus side, Niagara Region proposed a small decrease in their portion of the tax bill and some savings were realized with the new IST rules.

A large portion of our



April Jeffs
MAYOR'S
COLUMN

capital budget for 2011 has been dedicated to the repair and reconstruction of many roads. The preliminary budget included a road needs study however council decided that at this point in time it was apparent which roads needed attention and decided to put those funds into the roads budget. The completion of the renumbering project, Rees Bay drainage and the purchase of a snowplow/sander truck were also included in the capital budget.

In late December it

was brought to council's attention that the arena needed substantial fire code upgrades. \$140,000 was included in the capital budget to begin to address this issue. These upgrades could total as much as \$450,000. Council and staff are waiting until the completion of the Recreation Master Plan and will then determine direction with regard to the arena.

Wainfleet is a smaller municipality in terms of population within Niagara and as such we have a smaller budget to work with. Sometimes changes require that we hire new people on a temporary or permanent basis. An example of this was the implementation of a temporary election co-ordinator last fall. From time to time the township

may hire outside firms to assist with special projects that are beyond the normal duties of staff. Examples include last year's Official Plan update and this year's Recreation Master Plan exercise. The use of these outside consultants are related to specific projects and help us to complete jobs without increasing staff and also to tap into expertise that we may not already have in-house.

At the end of the budget process, council was able to hold the tax rate increase to less than 3%. The increase is primarily in the areas of insurance, fuel, utilities, wages and benefits. The 2011 budget addresses spending needs in the areas of cemetery, recreation, winter control and capital road improvements.

■ FRIENDLY WAGERS



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne's city flag flew high in front of Welland city hall following the Welland Junior Canadians' recent loss to the Port Colborne Pirates in junior B hockey playoffs. A friendly wager between Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway, left, and Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe, right, resulted in Welland flying Port Colborne's flag for the upcoming week. As part of the bet, Sharpe also wore a Pirates jersey during the regional council meeting on March 24. Badaway has made a bet under the same terms with Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati, as the Pirates and Niagara Falls Canucks battle in the Golden Horseshoe semifinals.

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■ **ANDREW WATTS:** Wainfleet man has led interesting life on three continents

The man behind the letters

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Andrew Watts remembers the first letter to the editor he ever wrote to *The Tribune*.

It was about the Wainfleet water-sewer issue — the Big Pipe — and it was directed at Niagara Region staff.

"It was a very basic letter, I asked why the pipe was necessary. I never did get a response," said Watts, a Wainfleet resident by way of Turks and Caicos Islands, Oman, Saudi Arabia and England.

Despite the lack of response from the region, Watts continued to write letters, posing questions about the Big Pipe and other topics that popped up. He said the letters looked on what seems to be a lack of common sense when it comes to government and government agencies at all levels.

"I have no interest in either politics or local government

so I can't explain how I seem to have become so embroiled in writing letters to editors. If something makes no common sense then I have a hard time believing in it. I plan on continuing to carry on in the same way."

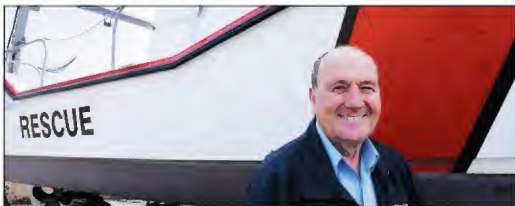
Though he professes no interest in either politics or local government, Watts ran for Wainfleet township council, a target of some of his letters, last year.

While he didn't win a seat at the table, Watts is pleased with the choice Wainfleet residents made during the election.

"I'm delighted with what they are doing at the moment. It's difficult to criticize them."

Watts has already, in fact, criticized the new council over the recent wind turbine moratorium. He feels council should have acted on Ald. David Wyatt's motion when it was first raised instead of waiting a few meetings.

See WATTS | page 10



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wainfleet resident Andrew Watts just doesn't write letters to the editor, he also serves the community as part of the Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (Pocomar) Unit. Watts once served in the Royal Navy of Oman and has lived in places like Saudi Arabia and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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■ WATTS

Writer joined British Merchant Navy at 16

FROM PAGE 9

Watts said other issues could come up with council and he won't hesitate to write a letter and criticize if necessary.

Before Watts, a native of England, came to Wainfleet and started writing letters; he lived and worked in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Oman and Saudi Arabia and has spent most of his life on or in the water.

He joined the British Merchant Navy when he was 16-years-old and worked for Shell Tankers and Ellerman City Line, where he received his 1st Mates ticket in 1964.

He got married and started to work as a helmsman (assistant marine pilot) in the Sultaneh Ship Canal, a canal not unlike the Welland Canal, until 1965. He worked on Manchester Liners container ships until the company moved its trade port to Europe.

"With a growing family (he has three sons) to support, when I was offered a job in Saudi Arabia as a port captain operating a tug fleet, small boat services and pilot manager I took it and became an expat."

While in the Arab country, he

worked with fellow ex-pat Brits and Indians, Filipinos and Sri Lankans. Watts said the Filipino and Sri Lankan sailors used to send almost every single penny of their paycheques back home to their families and would subsist on the daily food allowance they had.

"I wanted to get the bosses to up their pay," Watts said.

The Singapore-based company he was working for didn't want to give the sailors a raise, so when a job opportunity came up elsewhere, Watts took it.

Luckily, he was holding his own passport and flew back to England for a quick interview. Watts said the Saudi government or employers would hold the passports of foreigners who were working in the country.

The job opportunity came up for him as the Sultaneh of Oman with the Royal Navy of Oman.

"I had been offered a job as a commanding officer of a landing craft. We ran mines and missiles up and down the coast of Oman."

Unlike Saudi Arabia, where he was treated like a second-class citizen, Watts said everyone in Oman was friendly and made him feel

I had been offered a job as a commanding officer of a landing craft. We ran supplies and missiles up and down the coast of Oman."

Andrew Watts

welcome.

The sultan of Oman attended England's Sandhurst Military Academy and brought over British Merchant Navy sailors and members of England's military services on contract or loan to help train crew and officers in the Omani navy.

Watts was training crews on landing craft during part of his seven years in the country, even though he was only supposed to be there on a two-year contract.

"After working for two years with the Ministry of Defence, you weren't usually allowed to remain in the country. Thanks to the support of the Omani RNO Admiral I was permitted to stay. I was very, very lucky."

During his time in the Omani navy, Watts travelled to the northern part of the country and found pristine waters with coral reef beds below.

It was about that time when he discovered diving. When he learned his contract would not be renewed with the navy, he had already planned to take a Professional Association of Diving Instructors Open-Water Scuba Instructor Course, the first one to be held in Oman.

There were no Omani divers in the country and Watts said the sultan ordered a new and custom-built dive centre to be built to encourage young Omanis to become involved in scuba diving and the marine world along the coastline.

"The Omanis could all swim, but diving wasn't their thing. Most of the divers were ex-pats," he said, adding over time interest from locals started to increase.

"After two years I was approached by an Omani businessman to see if I was interested in being captain of a charter boat that he was interested in bringing to the new marina in Muscat. It would have been silly not to say yes."

So for his last year or so in the country, he was captain of the *Charlotte Anne*, an 85-foot ex-Baltic trawler that had been converted to a two-masted topsail schooner. The ship took guests down the coast on day trips, dinner cruises and with the occasional dive trips thrown in.

In 1987, he moved to the Turks and Caicos Islands where he was asked to manage an established dive shop, Flamingo Divers. Joining him on the islands was Alicia, his future wife, whom he met in Oman.

When Watts ended up on the tiny Netherlands Antilles island of Saba, where he worked as a dive-master, Alicia, joined him and the two were married.

In 2001, the couple moved to Canada, where his wife was from, and they bought a house in Wainfleet, and he became a Canadian citizen.

Though he was now retired, Watts didn't just spend his time sitting around writing letters to the editor. He found a way to get back on the water.

He met Cal Peyton, a member of Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (Pocomar) unit, and joined the ranks of the

all-volunteer crew. He's served as executive officer and commander of the unit.

"I'm amazed at what Pocomar and the crews have done on the lake. They're not professional, they're all volunteers, and they take risks and go out when few people would and they're happy to do it. I have been a professional seaman all of my life and sailed on oceans and seas around the world in all kinds of weather."

"In my opinion, Lake Erie is probably one of the most vicious areas of water in the world. That the volunteers go out on it, entirely at their own expense, and with not nearly as much public support as they deserve is quite incredible. Port Colborne is indeed fortunate."

Watts said while the general public may not be fully aware of what Pocomar does, its members are very much appreciated and by supported by boaters who use the marinas in Port Colborne, whether it's for towing their boat in after a breakdown or heading out to help boaters and swimmers in distress.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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■ TAXES: Budget finalized

Average Port resident to pay \$50 more

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne ratepayers can expect to shell out an average \$50 more this year in property taxes this year.

Council approved a 4.27% increase in taxes levied by the municipality.

Once blended with regional and education taxes, residents are looking at a 1.9% increase to overall property tax bills for an average income of \$50, chief administrative officer Bob Heil told city council Monday afternoon.

Included in budget changes during last Monday's deliberations were the addition of \$13,000 for mandatory health and safety training for staff, \$6,000 for staffing at the city's tourist centre and \$20,000 as an initial investment for a health-care training initiative that may be held in conjunction with McMaster University.

The approved increase also includes \$53,000 to be allocated to the city's "deficit in depreciation costs," Heil said. He previously told council Port Colborne is in need of \$3 million in infrastructure funding to cover the depreciation of its assets, but only \$1.5 million is being levied.

Heil stressed the importance of building a capital amortization fund to ensure assets can be replaced once they reach the end of their life span.

Port Cares executive director Pam Swick Janjac requested a \$50,000 commitment from the city for her agency's "Reaching Out & Changing Lives Capital Campaign."

The city has already waived about \$25,000 in building permit fees and development charges on the project, planning and development director Dan Aguilina said.

Heil said council could consider allocating funds from the \$53,000 deficit in depreciation costs to fund the Port Cares initiative.

"I'd like to see us try to do something to contribute to this," Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said.

With the budget near completion and little room for the reallocation of funds, Butters put forth a motion, which was approved, that Port Cares' funding request be sent to the Port Colborne Hydro board for consideration.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment
Westwood Estates Phase II

PROPOSED CHANGES

The zoning amendment proposes to change the zoning of the property known as Part of Lot 33, Concession 1 in the City of Port Colborne (see sketch on reverse) from RD (Residential Development) to site-specific R1 (First Density Residential) zone, RT (Residential Townhouse) and EP (Environmental Protection). The proposed zoning change will apply to the area that is generally bounded by the Eagle Marsh Drain to the south, by CN rail lands to the north, by the City of Port Colborne municipal boundary and Cement Plant Road to the west and by existing residential properties on Wood Lane and Stanley Street to the east.

The site-specific R1 (First Density Residential) zone will permit single detached and semi-detached dwellings, a minimum 470 m² lot area for single detached dwellings and a 5 metre buffer from the top of bank for those lots which back onto the quarry. The RT (Residential Townhouse) zone will permit street and block townhouse dwellings. The EP (Environmental Protection) zone will identify a Provincially Significant Wetland and its required 30 metre buffer on the south east portion of the property.

The proposed zoning change will reflect the land use designations proposed in the Westwood Secondary Plan and the residential uses proposed in the Draft Plan of Subdivision. Approval of the Secondary Plan will be required prior to Council making a decision on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on the proposed changes is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by: speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the City. Please note that unless you do one of the above now, you may not be able to appeal the decision later.

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Tuesday April 26, 2011

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario

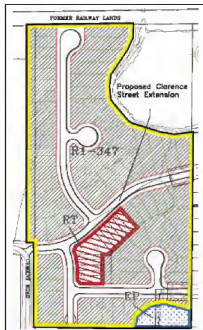
WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice of the decision of Council of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, please send a letter c/o Ashley Grigg, City Clerk, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the proposal please contact Shannon Larocque, Planner at 905-835-2901, extension 202.

A copy of the Department of Planning and Development's Public Meeting Report will be available for inspection on Wednesday April 20, 2011 in the Clerk's Division, located on the First Floor, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, or on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca under "Council Agendas."



Robert Heil



Barbara Butters

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 34 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Port Colborne before a decision on the proposed by-law is passed by Council, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the City of Port Colborne Council to the Ontario Municipal Board. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the City of Port Colborne before a decision on the proposed by-law is passed by Council, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so. If you wish to be notified of the decision of City Council in respect to the proposed by-law you must make a written request to the City Clerk.

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Readers' Choice Awards
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Readers' Choice Awards

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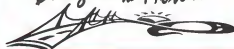


Tanya, Mary, Janette & Eric (left)

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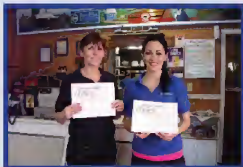
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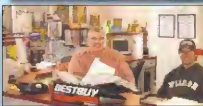
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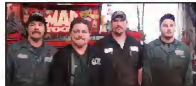
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2011
Best Shopping



Best Women's Store
Double T Fashions



Best Shoe Store
Family Shoe Store



Best Grocery Store
Food Basics



Best Men's Store
Rossmans Clothing



Best Health Food Store
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Best Shopping



Best Tires
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Best Frozen Food Store
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Best Convenience Store
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Best Discount Store
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2011 Readers' Choice Awards

Best Shopping



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Buckner's



Best Office Supplies/Furniture
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Best Shopping



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Ceramic Tile**
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**Best Water
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Sunshine



Best Heating
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Best Hardware
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2011 Readers' Choice Awards

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Best Lumber Yard
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Readers' Choice Awards

Best Services



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Credit Union**
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**Best Beauty
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All Clean Cleaning



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Lucy's



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2011

Readers' Choice Awards

Best Services

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White's Insurance

Best Investment Company

Dundee

Best Landscape & Lawn Service

Lake Erie Property Management

Best Locksmith Audets

Best Marital Arts Dayboll

Best Pet Grooming Bridget's Landro-Mutt

Best Photo Finishing Boggio Pharmacy

Best Signage Company Newport Signs

Best Snow Removal Services Lake Erie Property Management

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Port Colborne

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■ **TURBINES:** Questions raised in 9-page report penned by consultant 'deserve good answers'

Info 'missing' from wind farm proposal: consultant

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The answers to Wainfleet's questions aren't blowing in the wind.

During last Tuesday's township council meeting, municipal staff brought forward a report that reviewed plans for the Wainfleet Wind Energy Project.

The nine-page report, created by Jones Consulting Group Ltd., and the numerous comments contained within raised several questions from city council.

The consultant's report revealed there "was a lot of missing information" from the plan for the wind energy farm submitted by IPC Energy Inc. on behalf of the Loeffen family, said deputy mayor Richard Dykstra.



Richard Dykstra

There were 45 deficiencies found within the plan, which

raised some concerns in council chambers, he added.

Township planner Grant Munday believes the thorough report and comments found within, all which will be submitted to the province, will help ensure the project is "adequately reviewed."

The report concluded that additional technical information is required in several areas, including location, access, right-of-way use, traffic management, emergency management, construction and natural

heritage impacts.

The full consultant's report can be viewed on the township's website, www.wainfleet.ca, in the council agenda package from Tuesday, March 22.

"Ultimately, approval is in the hands of the province. We're just a consulting agency," Munday said of the municipality.

The province does, however, concern itself with the impact such projects have on municipalities, Munday said, certain "those impacts will be addressed."

Tom Lewis, IPC Energy's manager of planning and environment, said the company plans to formally respond to the consultant's report, providing answers to the questions found within to the municipality. The response is expected to be forwarded in the next one to two weeks, he added.

"They're good questions and they deserve good answers."

IPC will be hosting a second public open house for the project, though a date has not yet been set.

The company is awaiting a consent letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Once the letter has been received, notice of the meeting will be published at least two months in advance, Lewis said.

The open house will feature site specifications on where the wind turbines and other elements of the project will be located, he said.

That information can also be found online, at www.wainfleetwindenergy.ca.

■ **TEACHING SITE:** Still in discussions

Port Colborne might host McMaster med students

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne may be teaming up with McMaster University to enhance health-care services in the city. "I didn't want to bring anything forward publicly until we put a package together," Mayor Vance Badawey told council recently.

He said he was "uncomfortable speaking about

something that's only a quarter done," but with the city's budget deliberations nearing an end, it was an item that needed to be discussed.

City staff recommended the inclusion of \$20,000 for initial investment into the McMaster initiative, which would turn Port Colborne into a teaching site for medical students.

Badawey and Port Colborne physician recruiter

Joanne Ferraccioli have been in talks with Dr. Karl Stobbe — assistant dean for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine's Niagara campus — about incorporating



Vance Badawey

rating students into Port Colborne's health-care sector. The project would be a collaboration between the Local Health Integration Network, the DeGroote School of Medicine — run through McMaster — along with a physician lead role in Port Colborne.

The \$20,000 investment into the initiative is for that physician lead role to be created, Badawey told

council.

When Niagara Health System's hospital improvement plan was introduced, Port Colborne had the choice to "fall down on our knees" or take a proactive approach to improving health care in the city, the mayor said.

Opting for the latter, the city has been working toward putting together an "enhanced health service plan," of which

the new McMaster initiative will be a part.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said it was the previous council that approved the city's new direction in health care.

"I'd like to have a discussion to see if council still wants to move ahead in that same direction," he said.

Plans for the initiative are anticipated to be completed in detail by June, Badawey said.

SIR JOHN COLBORNE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB



REGISTRATION DATES

**April 2nd, April 9
9:30 AM TO NOON**

April 16th is our late registration: \$15.00 late fee applies

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ALONG THE LAKE SHORE

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

St. Joseph's CWL is having their semi-annual rummage sale, from 9am to noon. Fill a garbage bag for \$3. We also have a 25 cent white elephant table, you'll never know what you can find. Church is located at the corner of Netherby and Sodom Rds

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Arts Place will hold its annual Silent Auction on from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is both a fundraiser and a fun event. Come and bring your friends.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

Port Colborne Historical

Society will meet at 7 p.m. at Port Village Retirement Home. Guest Sarah Maloney will speak on the Digitization of War of 1812 Artifacts from Niagara. Call 905-835-2291 for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Port Colborne Optimists

will host a Girls Night Out. The event will be held at the Brebeuf Hall, 300 Killaly St. East, Port

Colborne. Doors open at 7 p.m. and local psychics will be offering 15 minute readings for

\$5.

See ATL | page 16

PORTAL VILLAGE PLAZA

Killaly St. W. & Steele St
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COLON CLEANSING AND OTHER DETOX METHODS

People often come to the store looking for products that will cleanse their colon, or detoxify their system. They have heard that regular colon or liver cleansing and other methods of detoxification can rid the body of pollutants, aid in weight loss, and prevent cancer.

The theory that over time the body can accumulate harmful toxins such as metals and pesticides is often perpetuated by the media and other advertisers. Proponents believe special treatments including herbals or supplements given orally, or as enemas, or special diets, can remove these toxins from the body.

Unfortunately there is no proof to support any of these claims. There is no special product or method that can rid the body of toxins.

The body is an amazing machine equipped with liver and kidneys that are responsible for filtering and eliminating toxins from the body.

Detoxification programs can actually be dangerous. They often include laxatives that can cause significant diarrhea resulting in fluid loss, and electrolyte imbalances. Some laxatives can worsen heart failure or cause kidney failure in people who have kidney disease.

Enemas and colonics can also lead to electrolyte imbalances and can even cause a perforated rectum. Some deaths have actually been reported with the use of coffee enemas.

For patients who want to optimize their health there are some simple much safer steps that can be taken. The first step for overweight patients is to lose weight by eating more fruits and vegetables and less refined sugar. Secondly, drinking a few glasses of water can help with weight loss and general health. However, it is not necessary to over do water intake either. The body closely regulates the amount of water in your system through homeostasis and your kidneys. Drinking too much can force you to the bathroom with increased frequency and not provide you with any other additional "health" benefit. Simple exercise like walking and some daily fresh air can improve mood and aid in weight loss as well.

For patients who want to take a supplement, there are some that can improve your health. Vitamin D, and Omega 3's have shown significant health benefits. Adults should take at least 1000 IU of vitamin D a day for bone health and cancer prevention. Omega 3's (EPA and DHA) have shown benefits for heart and brain health. An aspirin a day is also promoted for heart and stroke protection. Finally naturally occurring antioxidants that come in berries, green tea, and other naturally occurring sources can help with general overall health.

If you want to improve your health, it is best to avoid colon and liver cleanses and stick to the above mentioned strategies. Speak to your family physician or pharmacist if you would like to add in a supplement, and for advice on the best way for you to "get healthy".

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

FROM PAGE 15

Live entertainment by Randy Thomas. Wine tasting with hors d'oeuvres being served by surprise servers and there will be a number of vendors displaying their items. Tickets are now available and would make a great stocking stuffer. For more information or to purchase a ticket for \$25, call 905-834-7988. All proceeds from the event will help the Port Colborne Optimists to continue helping the kids of Port Colborne.

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Easter Crafts with Stacey "Hop to It", create a bunny decoration, Thursday, April 7th @ 4:00-4:45 p.m. Cost: \$2.00 for ages 4 and older, and

"Baa", create a lamb decoration, Thursday, April 14th @ 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Cost \$2.00 for ages 4 and older.

Adult Knitting Classes: Spring Session begins Tuesdays, March 22nd to May 17th at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information or to join

the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Fretz at 905-835-5373.

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Esposito. For ages 4 to 11, Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Two 5 week sessions beginning Tues. April 22nd to June 14th. Cost is \$20.00 per session pre-paid, or \$5.00 per drop in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Rise & Shine Yoga with Heather Jones: Current session runs Wednesdays, March 22nd to May 4th, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Hatha yoga: all levels. Punch cards only. Call Heather at 905-932-6061.

Small Hands Studio: Art Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting. Mondays, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ongoing classes until June 27th. Each five week session costs \$65. Save \$5. per child when you book two or more siblings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-8483 for more information.

Films for seniors presented the first Wednesday of the month from Oct. to May at 1:30 p.m. in the

auditorium. Free admission and refreshments.

Art in the Atrium: "Moments of Truth", photography by John Ballin until April 15, 2011.

ONGOING

Maker's Market at Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte St., from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Friday. Features local artisans and breakfast for \$4. The market is seeking new vendors. For more information call 905-834-3184.

March of Dimes is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2011 and needs your help. The charity is seeking volunteers in Welland and Port Colborne to help support its Door-to-Door Campaign in January. Please join a sixty-year tradition of generosity and help children and adults with disabilities in your community. We still need canvassers and captains to join the campaign. For more information or to volunteer please call 1-800-233-3463 ext. 7705 or e-mail door2door@marchofdimes.ca. To learn more about March of Dimes' programs and services for people with disabilities, please visit www.marchofdimes.ca.

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■ **GOVERNANCE:** Job a volunteer post

NHS seeking new board chair

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI AGENCY

ST. CATHARINES — Niagara Health System's board of directors has begun the process of selecting a new chair.

The post is currently held by chairwoman Betty-Lou Souter, who has served in the position since 2006, but her term expires in June. The board's policies require it to begin to explore its options.

"It's boring really. It's governance. There is a process the board has to follow," Souter said last Thursday morning. "The board has begun to look for nominations for a board chair. When that choice is made, we will certainly let you know," Souter said she could be nominated to stay on as board chairwoman, but after five years in the position said it would be a difficult choice to accept a nomination.

"At this point, it would be a hard choice to make and one that I could only make after having a long discussion with my family," she said.

If Souter is not nominated, or turns down a nomination, she would still be a member of the board. She said board bylaws have a provision for past chairs to stay on as members of the board.

"That is something I intend to do," she said. "I intend to continue to help improve health care in Niagara."

Souter, who was vice-chairwoman before replacing Paul Leon as NHS board chair, sharply countered speculation in some local news media that her potential departure from the top post was part of an NHS leadership shakeup on the heels of president and CEO Debbie Sevenpiper being let go. She was replaced by interim president Sue Matthews.

"One has nothing to do with the other," Souter said about her term expiring and Sevenpiper's departure. "This

is just what the board has to do. We have term limits and the whole reason you have term limits is so that you can have changes in leadership."

The position of NHS board chair is a volunteer post.

"We are all volunteers. You do a job like this to contribute to your community," she said.

According to NHS bylaws, the board chair's post is renewed every year for a maximum of four years, with a provision for extensions past that with board approval. The board extended Souter's tenure to keep her on while the NHS hits its hospital

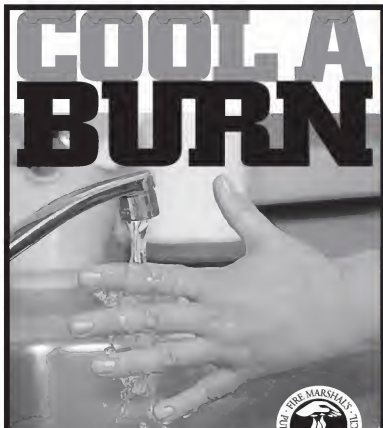
restructuring plan that saw, among other things, emergency rooms in Port Colborne and Fort Erie repurposed into 24-hour-a-day urgent care centres.

During her time as board chairwoman, the NHS also started construction on the new St. Catharines hospital and regional cancer centre, which are expected to open in early 2013.

"I am very proud of that, but the important thing is to remember that I did not do it alone. A lot of people were involved in making it happen," she said.



QMI file photo
Former NHS chair Betty-Lou Souter.



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MECHANIC

Repairs vs. replacement vs. do-it-yourself

DAVE REDINGER
QMI Agency

reasons for saying this.

Most importantly is that you already own your vehicle. Swapping out your ride on cost alone is a major task, but then you also have to take into account all the peripherals - taxes, admin fees, safety certificates, emissions tests, etc. It's just a hassle.

Also, used car values are at an all time low and many

people are often surprised by how little their cars are worth on the open market. The main reason is that new car financing in many cases is zero and if you're a good negotiator, you might even get a discount on top of the finance premium. The result is that many people today are buying new instead of used, as they used to only five years ago. To compare

repairing to replacing, though, \$2,500 to \$3,000 in repairs is a minor expense compared to the \$30,000 and \$40,000 it takes to purchase a new vehicle.

Q: I am an able person who knows how to use a wrench and have done some of my own repairs. I own an '87 Ford Mustang (5.0L) and this past week discovered a leak in my gas line around one of the bends

in the engine compartment. It appears to have simply rotted out. My questions are: Is it possible to replace only a portion of the entire line or do I have to replace the line or do I have to part the entire line? Other than not smoking, what other precautions should I take? Do I have to use some type of sealant on the thread when connecting lines? A: This type of repair is not complicated. However, make

sure you use high pressure fuel line made for injection systems and it's best to double clamp the connections with "fuel injection hose clamps." I always frown on any repairs conducted on vehicles by people who are not professionals. Why not be safe and have a pro do this. A leak in the fuel system could cost you the car or worse.

A question I'm often asked before getting the go-ahead on any repairs is "Is my car worth fixing?" My experience tells me that it's usually cheaper to repair the car you own than to replace it with another one. I have several



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■ **ARENA:** Last games played

Lots of memories at Teeder Kenney Youth Arena

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "We played a lot of hockey here," Tom Lannan said last Friday night as he looked around the Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena. "We coached a lot of teams."

The arena on the city's east side first opened its doors in December 1974, a year before Lannan joined the municipality as program supervisor.

On Nov. 26, 1976, the building was dedicated and named after Ted (Teeder) Kennedy, an NHL Hall of Famer who played for the Toronto Maple Leafs throughout his career from 1942 to 1957, and grew up in Humberstone, not far from the arena that bears his name.

Lannan still remembers the day when Kennedy, his cousin, was at the arena for the official opening.

"That's when Teeder was here and Bronco Horvath," he said. "It was a long time ago."

"I wish Ted was still alive," Lannan, who retired in 2009 as Port Colborne's recreation director, returned Friday to drop the puck to start the final game ever he played in that arena, an atom-hockey league semifinal playoff game between the Green and White teams.

Joining Lannan for the ceremonial faceoff at centre ice were house league convenor Chris Van Kralingen and Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association president Bill Steele.

Though a new twin-pad arena won't be ready by the time the next hockey season begins, Steele said he isn't concerned about a shortage of ice time, pointing out that Port Colborne minor hockey has already made arrangements with neighbouring communities.

"We've already talked to both Fort Erie and Wainfleet to secure ice time there," he said. "We've had meetings with all of our ice users, and

we've tentatively set a schedule for everybody. There's going to be some sharing of ice, a little bit of movement."

Steele said Dunnville has also offered to let Port Colborne teams play there.

"We've been able to extend the time, squeeze everybody in," he said.

He said minor hockey will use the arenas in neighbouring communities for practice time while games will still be played in Port Colborne.

Van Kralingen said the volunteers organized Friday's ceremonial faceoff because "we thought it'd be fun to get everyone together and have one big last hurrah. We've had an amazing year, with our kids and our parents."

He said all the house league teams have been very competitive this season and insulted values, such as "confidence, self-esteem and a sense of community" amongst the young hockey players.

Van Kralingen was a little concerned about next fall,

when the hockey season begins without the Teeder Kennedy arena. "It'll be tight," he said.

But it will be worth it in the end, he added.

"I would encourage everyone to be patient and stick with it. Once it's done, it'll be a fantastic facility," he said. "Nothing good comes easy."

Lannan said he hopes Kennedy's name will continue to be associated with the new Health and Wellness Centre, which is what the municipality will call the combination twin-pad and indoor pool that will replace the smaller of Port Colborne's two arenas.

He said the city can call the complex "whatever they want," but he hopes one of the two links within the centre continues to bear the name of Humberstone's hockey hero.

The arena also served as home ice to Lakeshore Catholic High School's hockey teams.



Retired Port Colborne recreation director Tom Lannan signs a puck at the final game played at Teeder Kennedy arena. File photo

abenner@wellandtribune.ca

■ **DECIDING GAME:** Victory for team

Road win gives Port Colborne bantams OMHA title

BERND FRANKE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Tyler Dickerson's second shut-out in as many must-win games and a forecheck that just wouldn't quit gave the visiting Scotiabank Sailors a 3-0 victory over Strathroy last Saturday — and Port Colborne its first Ontario

Minor Hockey Association championship since 1955.

Brett Audit, Jeremy Audit and Kanden MacNeil scored a goal as the bantam B team came back from a 2-1 deficit to win the best-of-five, six-point series three wins to two.

Port Colborne, which forced the deciding game in the provincial final with a victory on its home ice Game 4,

also by a 3-0 score, exploded for three goals in the second period and relied on a blue-chip defence backstopped by Dickerson to prevent Strathroy from defending its Ontario championship.

While the opening period was scoreless, suggesting the series was up for grabs, the Sailors controlled the flow of the game from the opening

faceoff.

"You could tell just after the faceoff that we wanted to win that game," said Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association president Bill Steele, one of about 300 Port Colborne residents who made the 1-1/2-hour trip to Strathroy to cheer on the Sailors.

While the Sailors had more than enough fans on hand

to celebrate their championship in Strathroy, they opted to board the bus for the return trip home and a team dinner at the City Tavern.

Head coach Tim Pretz said news of the championship travelled fast, with signs of congratulations greeting the team bus on its way east along Hwy. 3 appearing as early as Wainfleet.

Harvey's/Swiss Chalet and Westside Arena also were quick to acknowledge the end to Port Colborne's long title drought on their outdoor signs.

"They received quite a welcome when they came home, and they deserved it," Pretz said in praising the play of his 13- and 14-year-old players.

sports@wellandtribune.ca

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■ **NOW OPEN:** Doug Swartz Appliances

Appliance store a family affair where service is important

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Doug and the rest of the Swartz family want to help make Port Colborne more self-sufficient.

"You have to love what you do — we do and we love Port Colborne," said

the father of three teenagers and owner of Doug Swartz Appliances.

On April 11-15 the Swartz family will host a grand opening of the new household appliances store at 435 Killaly St. East.

Its 405-square-metre showroom boasts a large selection of name brand

products. "We're a family-owned and -operated business to cater to the needs of local families," Swartz said. "We'll



Doug Swartz

provide you with the best product to fit your lifestyle."

Grand opening week events will feature hors d'oeuvres made by wife Debbie, all day, every day in a live kitchen that features handcrafted cabinets by Ernie Kerekes of Kerekes Cabinets. Debbie said her husband

has been in the service industry for 36 years.

"After the sale, it's the service that's important," she said. "That's his best product."

Visitors can fill out a ballot to win a free Frigidaire front-loading washer and many other prizes.

"You don't even have to buy anything, just come say hello and take a look at the showroom, and fill out a ballot."

Doug Swartz Appliances will offer to pay the HST on all purchases made during the grand opening week.

vgray@wellandtribune.ca



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■ **WALLEYE:** 20th annual tournament

Top anglers anglers to Port

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Port News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Organizers of the 20th annual 444 International Walleye Tournament hope the anglers will come back as strong as the fish.

To lure more in, they have adjusted the prizes and put an all-inclusive prize — \$10,000 for finishing first — on the hook.

The open house on Saturday at Erie Tracker Outfitters drew in crews signing up for the tournament, which will be held June 24-26. The tournament can draw up to 1,000 anglers and their families to a weekend in this lakeside city.

Chris Yalowica, 44-year-old tournament chairman for the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club, said the tournament started out big 20 years ago, but has seen a drop off in participation over the past few years.

Part of it was because of the

economic recession and part of it to a decline in fish, he said.

The walleyes have made a comeback, partly through efforts by the conservation club, which operates a hatchery, stocks streams and rivers such as the Welland River. Funding for that stocking comes from the tournament.

Yalowica said corporate sponsorship is strong this year, allowing the club to guarantee prizes of \$10,000 for the winning boat and various \$1,000 prizes for biggest fish of the day, coolest under pressure and highest weight for boats 20 and under.

"We have had excellent cooperation from the city," he said.

During the tournament, free RV camping will be allowed in J.H. Knoll Lakeside Park and the registration fee will include cost of docking and launching.

The tournament involves up to 400 boats, traditionally with four anglers, with four pairs of rods catching four big

fish. That's where "444" comes from, although the rules have changed a little since the first tournament.

Yalowica said boats range from 16-foot to more than 30 feet.

A new prize is a \$500 Mayor's Award. Fees are \$600 a boat or \$300 if paid before June 10. Deadline for registration is June 17.

Tony Harrington of the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club, said the tournament is a big event for families. Fathers, sons and daughters join in. Married couples enter a boat and, of course, competing fishermen will take to the water.

The tournament includes a Can-Am Challenge Trophy, a competition between the top five Canadian and top five from the United States. Largest fish wins.

"Of course, we want to keep the trophy here," Harrington said.



Wayne Campbell, staff photo. **Alfred Marinelli**, left, vice-president of the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club, and club member **Tony Harrington** of the club hold the Can-Am Challenge Cup while **Chris Yalowica**, third from left, chairman of the 444 International Walleye Tournament, and club president **Paul Bird** hold the tournament trophy during a promotion of the tournament Saturday. The 20th annual tournament will be held June 24-26 in Port Colborne.

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